

Donovan, Sir John and Lady Smale, and Hon. W. H. and Mrs. Marsh.

We may add that the company were recalled at the end of the first act, and fairly well applauded throughout, although the dexterity of the orchestra generally prevented encores.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

[Supplied to the "China Mail"]

(Per E. E. A. & Co. Telegraph Co's. Line.)
THE PROPOSED INCREASE TO THE GERMAN ARMY: FRANCE TAKES IT QUIETLY.

LONDON, Jan. 28.

The proposed increase to the German Army has been received in France very quietly.

FRANCE TO OCCUPY TONGKING: THE REMOVALS CONFIRMED.

It is affirmed that the French will occupy Tongking.

U. S. MINISTER TO LONDON: MR. LOWELL APPOINTED.

Mr. Lowell has been appointed United States Minister to London.

THE BRITISH MINISTER AND THE PORT: THE MOLLAH AFFAIR STILL UNSETTLED.

An exchange of notes has taken place between the British Minister and the Porte—the Mollah affair is still unsettled.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The next French and Australian mail may be expected here on about Tuesday next, the 3rd prox., by the M. M. steamer *Tang-tai*, which left Singapore at daylight on the 26th for this port, via Saigon. She brings London dates up to Dec. 26th, and the Australian mails via Galio.

The P. and O. Steamer *Malacca* was towed round to Aberdeen Docks this morning by the steam-tug *Fame*.

A party of divers have been at work for some time past breaking up the wreck of the *Dumail*, wrecked in 1869 on the rock in front of the Kowloon Docks, Hung Ham.

The *S. S. Emerald* came into harbour this morning dressed with a mass of bunting. On enquiry we are informed that on her arrival to-day she had completed her hundredth trip between Manila and this port.

It is rumoured that a new company will shortly be formed under the style of "The Comopolitan Dock Co. and will work the Docks at present in the proprietorship of Messrs W. B. Spratt & Co. Messrs Russell & Co. will be the agents for the new company, and the prospectus will probably be issued shortly.

A case was heard before the sitting Magistrate to-day in which a house agent, Ho Ahim, was charged with attempting to extort money from the tenant of one of his employer's houses, a Miss Irving, occupant of No. 30 Hollywood Road. Mr. Wotton appeared for the complainant and Mr. Ng Choy for the defendant. A considerable amount of evidence was taken, but as the hour was late, His Worship decided to remand the further hearing till half-past two o'clock to-morrow, and defendant was admitted to bail in \$200. We hold over the unfinished evidence and shall briefly report the case as a whole.

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LIMITED.

HALF YEARLY MEETING THIS AFTERNOON.

The ordinary half yearly meeting of the shareholders of the above Company was held at the Company's offices this afternoon (30th), when there were present:—The Hon. W. Kewick, M.L.C., Chairman, presiding, and Messrs E. R. Bellios, W. Kewick and A. Molver, directors, Col. Stuart, and Messrs H. H. Nelson, L. Hauschild, A. Newton, D. McCulloch, J. T. Chater, R. Dacon, W. Dolan, P. B. Oams, W. M. Morgan, H. Hopplius, G. Sharp, H. Foss, H. Kuhlmann and J. da Costa, Secretary.

The report submitted by the Directors was published in our last issue.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—The report which is in your hands, embodies a full account of the proceedings of the Company since we last met and I think enters so fully into what has occurred that it is not necessary for me to say much on this occasion. I think the point or feature of interest in the report is that referring to the agreement that has been come to with the China Navigation Company whereby the competition on the Canton River is ended. You will remember discussions that took place at private meetings six months ago and the views that were expressed by the shareholders. In accordance with what occurred at these meetings the Directors took in hand the work of coming to terms in accordance with the views then expressed. The difficulties met were very great, occasionally indeed they appeared insurmountable. We overcame them, however, and the river traffic became one in which the China Navigation Company and this Company were jointly interested. That arrangement then made was only of a tentative character; it continued until the 31st December. I am glad to say that the work was carried on very satisfactorily, although the feeling of the Directors was, that as regarded dividend, it was not more favourable for this Company.

The Central School.

ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

IMPORTANT SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR.

The prizes depending on the recent examinations at the Central School were distributed this afternoon by Governor Hennessey. There were very few parents or visitors present. The following is the list of those who earned marks of ability and attention to their studies:—

Special Prizes.
1, Best Scholar, Lau Ho, Morrison Scholarship.
2, Translation, Ho Tai Shin, Watch, presented by Mr. Jackson.
3, Composition, W. Wilson, Watch, presented by Hon. J. Russell.
4, Chemistry, J. Tanabe, Gold Pencil Case, presented by Head Master.

Ordinary Prizes.
I. Class.—1, Shi Hon, Watch, presented by Mr. Kwok Aehong; 2, Ho Fuk, Silver Pencil Case, presented by Mr. Arthur; 3, B. Yasuhiro, Silver Pencil Case.

II. Class.—1, Wat Pat-tai, Watch, presented by Dr. Young; 2, Chan Shau, Silver Pencil Case; 3, M. Alaraki, Dictionary.

III. Class.—1, Wan Kit-sz, Watch; 2, Chan Li Kwan, Silver Pencil Case; 3, F. X. Jesus, Dictionary.

IV. Class.—1, Chan Un-fan, Watch; 2, Pang Shan-chu, Silver Pencil Case, presented by Mr. May; 3, Lau Kwai, Dictionary.

V. Class.—1, Si Ip, Watch; 2, So Tai Yau, Silver Pencil Case.

VI. Class.—1, So Wal, Watch; 2, Seung Man Kwong, Dictionary.

VII. Class.—1, Li Tein-fan, Watch; 2, Cheng Ying-kwai, Dictionary.

VIII. Class.—1, Chan Wing-lin, Watch; 2, Ko Tein-ai, Dictionary.

Preparatory Class, Div. I.—1, Yam Sik-lam, Watch; 2, Cheung Yan-fat, Silver Pencil Case, presented by Mr. McKinney.

Preparatory Class, Div. II.—1, Leung In-ting, Silver Pencil Case, presented by Mr. Gorrard; 2, Sham Un-lui, Ivory Pencil Case.

Preparatory Class, Div. III.—1, Young Shan-lin, Ivory Pencil Case; 2, Tsang U-kwan, Ivory Pencil Case.

Chinese Class.
Fortnightly Examination.
I. Class.—Lo Un-ko, Watch.
II. Class.—Wong Kwok-fai, Dictionary.

Ordinary Prizes.
I. Class.—1, Tung Ku-ling, Watch, presented by Mr. Kwok Cheung; 2, Lam Fat-tai, Dictionary.

II. Class.—1, Yung Him, Watch; 2, Leung Shiu-fan, Dictionary.

III. Class.—1, Tsang Seung-bung, Silver Pencil Case; 2, Ho Un-in, Dictionary.

IV. Class.—1, Tsang Wan, Silver Pencil Case; 2, Fung Tsung, Silver Pencil Case.

V. Class.—1, Cheung Un-kwong, Silver Pencil Case, presented by Mr. Kwok Cheung; 2, S. Abram, Ivory Pencil Case.

Chinese Class for Europeans, &c.
I. Division.—1, A. Ramjan, Watch, presented by Mr. Nelson; 2, U. Ramjan, Dictionary.

II. Division.—1, S. Mootian, Ivory Pencil Case; 2, Abdul, Ivory Pencil Case.

III. Division.—1, R. P. Remedios, Dictionary; 2, H. Arthur, Ivory Pencil Case, presented by Mr. May.

His Excellency said: Ladies and gentlemen,—It is the usual custom on this occasion for the Governor of the Colony to

briefly review what has been done, and what changes have occurred respecting Public Instruction in this Colony within the past year. When I distributed the prizes in this School in January, 1879, Dr. Stewart was absent, and on his return important changes were made affecting Public Instruction in the Colony. To begin with, some of the changes that were then effected not only indirectly concerned Public Instruction but were changes that ought to be noted because they affected the Headmaster himself. During his absence from this Colony, when he was at home in his own country, he had the honour of receiving from the University where as a youth he studied a high recognition of his ability, his character and his attainments; he had conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Laws. I think it is but fitting on this occasion that we should congratulate him on the high honour he has received. Dr. Stewart received another honour, although it was more in the practical way of the business of the Colony itself, shortly after his return. He has been for many years in this Colony one of the most eminent officials of the Government of Hongkong. For the first time in his career he was placed on the Executive, and for three months he held the high and responsible post of Acting Colonial Secretary. You are all aware of the admirable stamp of officials I have the satisfaction to be assisted by, and will perceive how far I may call that honour a substantial honour which was conferred on Dr. Stewart in placing him on the Executive Council, and if only for the short space of three months, placing him at the head of the permanent Civil Service. And I will say this much, that although the period he occupied that high position was during my absence in Japan, since my return and my resuming the control of public business here not a week has passed without papers coming before me which justify the selection I then made and show that the appointment was a sensible and proper one. Dr. Stewart performed the high functions of Colonial Secretary to my entire satisfaction and to the credit of the Colony.

The year 1879 is in some other respects also an epoch in the history of Public Instruction in this Colony. Dr. Stewart during his absence in England was requested by the Secretary of State to express frankly and fully to Her Majesty's Government his opinion on one or two subjects of paramount importance. It is known to you all that the Hongkong Scheme of Government Education so far as the grants-in-aid were concerned did not commend itself to the entire approval of those interested in Education in Hongkong. The part objected to was that part of the Scheme under which no school could obtain the grant unless four hours every day were devoted exclusively to secular instruction. From

the papers laid before the Legislative Council it is now a matter of notoriety that various religious bodies took objection to that clause of the scheme. It was taken objection to by Bishop Raimondi, it was taken objection to by the late Colonial Chaplain, Rev. Mr. Kidd, it was taken objection to by Pastor Kittze, and the objections in every case took this form—"we object," they said, "to the word 'secular' being in the grant-in-aid scheme and we specially object to its being used in that part of the scheme which deals with what particular books we are to employ in the schools. We have no objection, with regard to secular subjects, to being put under the same rule as applies in other parts of the Empire and to be judged by results, but we do desire to have the Bible part of our daily school life, and that being so we cannot accept the Government grant-in-aid." Now this is a question of great moment that I think it is of the utmost importance that Dr. Stewart should have had an opportunity of stating his own views on the subject and representing the views of an intelligent and influential portion of the community on it. It was but right that the Secretary of State should deal with this question as he did—as a high question of State to be decided by him. And these words are an extract from a letter of Dr. Stewart's, dated London, Nov. 15, to the Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office in which letter Dr. Stewart very properly pressed that point:—

"The next objection is to the word 'secular' wherever it occurs, and to the provision that religious instruction 'must be either before or after the four hours of secular instruction required by the code.' I have already explained in what sense the word 'secular' is used in the scheme. To remove it and to allow religious instruction to be given during the time required for the subjects of the standards would involve a sacrifice of the principle on which Government grants for education are now allowed. If, as the Bishop claims, distinctive Catholic teaching must pervade the whole work and time of his schools, the Government by allowing this would be departing from the position of religious neutrality which it has hitherto thought it advisable to maintain. All the Protestant denominations that have accepted the scheme comply ungrudgingly with the regulation, which would therefore appear to be a fair and a reasonable one. It seems to me that this point is one peculiarly calling for the decision of the Secretary of State as a question of policy."

Now before the decision of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach was given on this report of Dr. Stewart's there came to me a representation from the Rev. Mr. Kidd, our late Colonial Chaplain, in which he stated in one sentence his objection to the grant-in-aid scheme. He said:—

"I am sorry to say that I am unable to put my school under Government inspection, and thus claim the pecuniary support (under the grant-in-aid scheme) which I really very much need. I cannot conscientiously give secular instruction only for the required number of hours per day, nor can I omit the Bible and the Prayer Book from my time table."

The question then before Sir Michael Hicks-Beach was one of great importance. Dr. Stewart properly declared it to be a question of Policy, and it has been so decided, the decision being that the word "secular" has been struck out of the scheme; and in reply to this letter of the Colonial Chaplain I received a despatch, April, 1879, telling me that the modification then made in the scheme would remove the objection taken to it by the late Colonial Chaplain, and I have no doubt that that is so. The Grant-in-aid scheme is now published for the information of the public. Every school in the Colony may come within that scheme, only it must be open to Government inspection; it must be examined by the Government Inspectors who will report upon the results of their tests on the different subjects specified in the code, and on these results the Government will give its aid. So far on that important point. The decision has given great satisfaction throughout the community.

There was another question then under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government in which they were assisted in coming to a conclusion by Dr. Stewart when in London,—the question of English teaching in the school. You are all aware that on the first occasion when I had the honour of speaking from this desk, and on every occasion when I have had the honour of addressing parents and managers or promoters of schools, I have invariably declared for the importance of teaching English to the Chinese. Amongst the prizes which have been selected to be presented to-day the number of Chinese who possess a fairly good knowledge of English and are able to read and write it is small here. Many of my friends amongst the European merchants feel the inconvenience of this state of things. I do hold that if we do whatever we can to assist in giving a substantial education in English here and in others schools, a kind of education suited for mercantile employment in Hongkong, and in interesting and employing in commerce the Chinese thus educated, we shall be doing what will assist the local Government and the local tax-payers. It is my wish—it has been the ambition of every one who has preceded me as Governor here, and the Policy of all Secretaries of State who have written to me or to any of my predecessors—that this Colony shall be made an Anglo-Chinese Colony, where Her Majesty's subjects and thousands of thousands of Chinese with a knowledge of English and of English laws shall live happily under these Laws, loyal to their Sovereign and a strength to Her Empire. I hold that this Education Scheme will be a powerful reality if it should act in any way in assisting for us an Anglo-Chinese Community such as this. I have over and over again expressed my desire to see such an Anglo-Chinese Community as this springing from the children of the Colony. Last year a deputation of Chinese, merchants, traders and others, came to me and said:—"We have children and grandchildren born in this Colony. We desire to be naturalised. We desire to see the property we possess transmitted to our children as British subjects," and they asked my assistance. It is desirable to have the Chinese children born here, and educated here kept in the Colony. They are wedded to the Colony; all their future interests are wrapped up in it. They will form such a community in time. If this can be done it will facilitate the operations of European merchants who desire to have a staff of good Chinese clerks and assistants under them. The Secretary of State desires to secure this, and to establish such a loyal and contented class of subjects as this would be.

That question is still under the consideration of the Government. Last year I gave instructions to the Surveyor General before I went to Japan to prepare plans for a new Central School, that Dr. Stewart was to be consulted and that his wishes were to be acted on with respect to the nature and dimensions of the new building. The Department to which the matter was then

referred has been fully employed with an important work, perhaps the most important work we have ever had,—the rebuilding of the Praya Wall. During my absence in Japan he asked to be allowed to postpone this scheme until the work in connection with the Praya was finished. Permission was given, I think properly given. The result is that Dr. Stewart has not the proper accommodation required for carrying on such an important school. I am to ask the Government to build a fine large new school at a cost of \$10,000, where the Chinese can be taught English, and efforts are being made to teach English in all the village schools. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach has given no permission, and as soon as the work in his department will allow of it the Surveyor General will undertake the preparation of the plans. In a word you can see that this Government and Her Majesty's Government are alive to the importance of teaching English to the Chinese and that practical steps are being taken to carry out that object.

The first time I spoke from this bench I expressed my opinion that with the two offices of Inspector of Schools and Headmaster Dr. Stewart was overworked. I expressed my wish that he might be converted into Inspector of Schools only and be relieved of the Headmaster's duties. The Secretary of State directed me to inform Dr. Stewart that he thought the Inspectorship of Schools was enough for one man's time and that the two offices of Inspector of Schools and Headmaster of the Central School would therefore be separated; he would be retained as Headmaster and the Inspectorship would go to some other official. Well, arrangements in accordance with the wishes of the Government were made, but I have no hesitation in saying that they are provisional and tentative. I was fortunate in securing for Inspector of Schools, Dr. Eitel—a friend of Education, and an eminent scholar, and he now fills that position. But I have recommended Dr. Eitel to another position under Government, to be the head of the Interpretation Department and Chinese Secretary, a position which was previously in existence and was found very useful. If this recommendation be adopted the post of Inspector of Schools would be vacant. And that is the position which my duty to the Colony of Education would bind me to ask Dr. Stewart to be appointed. Inspector of Schools of all the schools with which Dr. Eitel has now to do, but I hope to see accomplished, and not until then will I be satisfied that Dr. Stewart is in the position which he is entitled to hold with regard to Education in this Colony.

During the last year not only were these changes, but a very eminent gentleman who called to see me, Mr. Robert Hart, the Inspector General of the Imp. Customs, the most trusted and esteemed man in the service of the Emperor of China, one of the most distinguished men of the East, expressed gratitude for what had been done for the Foochow Arsenal, for the works at Tientsin by the Government School of Hongkong. At the Foochow Arsenal and at Tientsin the Chinese youths educated here were found most useful in the appliances they were there placed in. Well, I told Mr. Hart that it was always agreeable for a Governor of the Colony to receive the thanks of those gentlemen for what the Government were doing, but I did not conceal my conviction that the young men sent to the Foochow Arsenal or to the Government establishments at Tientsin should be educated, not by the Government of Her Majesty, but at the expense of the Government of China, and that while I recognised that an inclination was laudable to do something for the four hundred millions of that vast Empire so near us and while I recognised that it was unobjectionable to desire to assist the Chinese Government, nevertheless it did occur to me that the 140,000 residents of Hongkong should have something to say on the question, and that it might be argued with regard to a Chinese youth who had passed five or six years at this School and been highly trained under an able headmaster and a staff of highly qualified teachers that it would be better for the Colony if he remained in Hongkong and did not go to the Foochow Arsenal. Why does it come to this? Why does he not remain? Why have we sent so many to be employed by the Chinese Government? It is a difficult question to answer. There is a ready demand for Chinese here who really understand English and have been taught book-keeping, who have been trained in keeping accounts; and merchants and others here would be glad to have an ample supply of that class of assistants; but nevertheless unfortunately the number of Chinese who possess a fairly good knowledge of English and are able to read and write it is small here. Many of my friends amongst the European merchants feel the inconvenience of this state of things. I do hold that if we do whatever we can to assist in giving a substantial education in English here and in others schools, a kind of education suited for mercantile employment in Hongkong, and in interesting and employing in commerce the Chinese thus educated, we shall be doing what will assist the local Government and the local tax-payers. It is my wish—it has been the ambition of every one who has preceded me as Governor here, and the Policy of all Secretaries of State who have written to me or to any of my predecessors—that this Colony shall be made an Anglo-Chinese Colony, where Her Majesty's subjects and thousands of thousands of Chinese with a knowledge of English and of English laws shall live happily under these Laws, loyal to their Sovereign and a strength to Her Empire. I hold that this Education Scheme will be a powerful reality if it should act in any way in assisting for us an Anglo-Chinese Community such as this. I have over and over again expressed my desire to see such an Anglo-Chinese Community as this springing from the children of the Colony. Last year a deputation of Chinese, merchants, traders and others, came to me and said:—"We have children and grandchildren born in this Colony. We desire to be naturalised. We desire to see the property we possess transmitted to our children as British subjects," and they asked my assistance. It is desirable to have the Chinese children born here, and educated here kept in the Colony. They are wedded to the Colony; all their future interests are wrapped up in it. They will form such a community in time. If this can be done it will facilitate the operations of European merchants who desire to have a staff of good Chinese clerks and assistants under them. The Secretary of State desires to secure this, and to establish such a loyal and contented class of subjects as this would be.

In thus referring to the changes by Her Majesty's Government, to the policy that our Educational System should be directed to secure, I will only further add that it gives me satisfaction to know that during the absence of the Headmaster he has no fault to find with the way in which the school was conducted. On the contrary he tells me that it was carried on to his satisfaction, and he has assured me to-day that he has in the teachers who are now here an able, efficient and loyal staff. We have present here to-day 300 scholars, and if we may add one young friend I see down there whose name is not yet on the roll we have 400 present—a very respectable number. The result is most satisfactory. I have made it a point, looking to and relying on the character, ability and attainments of Dr. Stewart, to agree to every particular request or suggestion he has made me, and on this I may let you into a little secret. I receive every morning a despatch-box with what are known as the Colonial Secretary's Office papers; these are the various applications made by the Heads of Departments and others on public business. That box comes to me every morning, and I endeavour to deal with it as soon as possible. So far as Education goes whenever I see a Colonial Secretary's Office paper with the handwriting of Dr. Stewart on it, I satisfy myself with reading the little précis of the contents of the document, I don't take the trouble of opening it, I write the word "Approved," I sign my name and put it away to one side. That paper is done with. With Dr. Eitel the Inspector of Schools I do the same, so that, so far as the Administrative conduct of the Education Department is concerned, my labours are now exceedingly light. I have for this now to express my best thanks to the gentlemen connected with the Education Department. Their duties are done to my satisfaction; they give me no trouble whatever, and I now thank them. It only remains for me now, ladies and gentlemen, to thank you for your attendance, and to announce to you, the boys, that you will now be allowed from this date the customary holidays.

The boys, as usual, received this intimation with applause.

Dr. Stewart: It only remains for me, Your Excellency, to thank you on behalf of the School for your presence here to-day, to thank the ladies and gentlemen who have been present, and to ask you to announce that the School will reassemble on Tuesday, March 2.

Three cheers were called for by the Governor for the Headmaster; the boys applauded lustily with hands and feet, but no cheer was forthcoming. The Governor was amused, and a second time called for a hearty British cheer. Then, led by Mr. W. M. B. Arthur, they took it up and made the roof ring again. A cheer was given for the Governor as H. E. departed, the few spectators left, and the time came for the Headmaster to close the Session by pronouncing the glorious word—"Dismiss."

Canton.

Thursday morning, Jan. 29.

Soon after the departure of the steamer *Ichang* for Hongkong on Wednesday morning, the cry of fire was raised along the well known street called Canal Road by foreigners, which, as its Chinese name of Sha-ki-Sand Embankment—likewise implies, bounds the canal which separates the settlement of Sham-mun from Canton proper.

It was scarcely nine o'clock when the fire was being beaten along the causeways of the settlement itself, and very shortly after that hour the Settlement Fire Engine was at work.

It had been dragged over the bridge—and placed on the street skirting the canal, so that there was no difficulty as to the supply of water.

The fire broke out on the premises of the, shall I say, notorious compradore popularly known as Ah Cheung, whose Chinese sign bears the name Sheng Cheung Woh. Seldom has the work of destruction been more rapid.

At the same time seldom has a fire been extinguished so quickly. The sun was shining, and the air was clear and dry, and a change of wind would doubtless have imperilled much valuable property, but, as it was, there was but little breeze, and that only served to waft the flames towards the canal, so that the rafters of the adjoining house were easily detached from the blazing roof of Ah Cheung's.

In less than an hour the fire was completely beaten down, and our engine was brought back over the bridge.

It may not be out of place to state that though the engine was at work it was manned only by the police and voluntary Chinese helpers. No brigade made an appearance, and it seems as if the Canton community will have to learn by bitter and costly experience of neglecting the Brigade Corps. It is sad to report that one old man, tailor employed on the premises, was burnt to death.

The weather had been fine for a day or two—and it is easy to suppose that at this season the stores of a "ship's chandler," "tailor," and "compradore" are very inflammable. It seems that fortunately there was no stock of kerosene in the shop, but now and then amidst the dry crackling of the fire there was to be heard a dull sound, as of the bursting of vessels filled with oil or spirits.

It was feared at first that the whole row of houses was in imminent danger—from A. S. Watson & Co's Dispensary on the right to Fow Loong's China store on the left. The attendance and prompt and efficient service of numerous native Fire Engines speedily gave great relief to all spectators. It is not gratifying to recall the fact that our own engine actually did nothing towards extinguishing the flames—though the Police Inspector Mr. Lindberg, with the muzzle of the hose in hand—was one of the first persons to mount the roofs of Fow Loong's, with the intention of saving the neighbouring houses. The stream of water which washed that height was not effective. Of course the appearance of the engine was reassuring to our Chinese friends, but it is unsatisfactory that the foreman should have stood alone in the command of the men at the pump, who in fact were thus necessarily left to themselves. Damage some thousand dollars in gin and whiskey, no kerosene.—P. S. Finally it was found that the store of Ah Cheung was completely burnt out, and the Native Restaurant on the right was very seriously damaged—though not levelled to the ground. There is happily no occasion to attribute the fire to an incendiary.

COMMUNICATIONS.

"OUR BOYS' COMEDY COMPANY."

To the Editor of the "China Mail."

Hongkong, Jan. 30, 1880.

SIR,—Allow me, through the medium of your paper, to make a suggestion to the business Manager of the above Company. It is to this effect. I feel quite sure that if the prices of admission to the Stalls and Back Seats are reduced to \$1 and half a dollar respectively, a much larger number of people will attend the play to-morrow night, and the "takings" be much in excess of the higher prices. Empty seats have a chilling effect upon both actors and audience. \$2 for a Stall is too much to charge for most of the performances that take place in the City Hall Theatre.

Yours &c.,

TRY IT.

Mails.

U. S. MAIL LINE.

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

THROUGH TO NEW YORK, VIA OVERLAND RAILWAYS, AND TOUCHING AT YOKOHAMA, AND SAN FRANCISCO.

THE U. S. Mail Steamship CITY OF TOKIO will be despatched for San Francisco, via Yokohama, on WEDNESDAY, the 4th February, at 1 p.m., taking Passengers, and Freight, for Japan, the United States, and Europe.

Through Bills of Lading issued for transportation to Yokohama and other Japan Ports, to San Francisco, to Atlantic and Inland Cities of the United States via Overland Railways, to Havana, Trinidad, and Demerara, and to ports in Mexico, Central and South America by the Company's and connecting Steamers.

Through Passage Tickets granted to England, France, and Germany by all trans-Atlantic lines of Steamers.

Freight will be received on board until 2 p.m. the 3rd February. Parcel Packages will be received at the office until 5 p.m. same day; all Parcel Packages should be marked to address in full; value of same is required.

Consular Invoices to accompany Overland Cargo should be sent to the Company's Office in Sealed Envelopes, addressed to the Collector of Customs at San Francisco.

For further information as to Passage and Freight, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 3, Praya Central.

RUSSELL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, January 19, 1880. fe1

MITSUBISHI MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

STEAM TO YOKOHAMA VIA KOBE.

THE S. S. NIIGATA MARU, Captain WALKER, due here on or about the 2nd February, will be despatched as above on SATURDAY, the 7th Feb., at Daylight.

Cargo received on board and Parcels at the Office up to 5 p.m. of 6th February. No Bill of Lading signed under \$2 Freight.

All Claims must be settled on board before delivery is taken, otherwise they will not be recognized.

RATES OF PASSAGE.

To KOBE.....Cabin \$60. Steerage \$15.

" YOKOHAMA... Do. \$75. Do. \$20.

" NAGASAKI... Do. \$75. Do. \$20.

A REDUCTION is made on RETURN CABIN PASSAGES.

CARGO and PASSENGERS for Nagasaki will be transhipped to the Shanghai Mail Steamer at Kobe.

For further Particulars, apply at the Company's OFFICES, No. 6, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

Hongkong, January 24, 1880. fe7

Occidental & Oriental Steamship Company.

TAKING THROUGH CARGO AND PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE,

IN CONNECTION WITH THE CENTRAL

and UNION PACIFIC AND CONNECTING RAILROAD COMPANIES

AND ATLANTIC STEAMERS.

THE S. S. BELGIO will be despatch-

ed for San Francisco via Yokohama on WEDNESDAY, February 25th, 1880, at 3 p.m., taking Cargo and Passengers for Japan, the United States, Mexico, Central and South America, and Europe.

Connection is made at Yokohama, with Steamers from Shanghai.

Freight will be received on Board until 4 p.m. of the 24th February. PARCEL PACKAGES will be received at the Office until 5 p.m. same day; all Parcel Packages should be marked to address in full; value of same is required.

A REDUCTION is made on RETURN PASSENGER TICKETS.

Consular Invoices to accompany Overland Cargo, should be sent to the Company's Office addressed to the Collector of Customs, San Francisco.

For further information as to Freight or Passage, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 37, Queen's Road Central.

G. B. EMORY, Agent.

Hongkong, January 17, 1880. fe25

NEWS FOR HOME.

The Overland China Mail.

(The oldest Overland Paper in China.)

PUBLISHED AT THE "CHINA MAIL" OFFICE IN TIME FOR THE ENGLISH MAIL.

Containing from 72 to 84 columns of closely printed matter.

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It contains Shipping news from Shanghai, Hongkong, Canton, &c., and a complete Commercial Summary.

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Terms of Advertising, same as in Daily China Mail.

Mails.

NOTICE.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

PAQUEBOTS POSTE FRANÇAIS.

STEAM FOR SAIGON, SINGAPORE, BATAVIA,

POINT DE GALLE,

ADEN, SUEZ, ISMAILIA, PORT SAID, NAPLES, AND MARSEILLES;

ALSO,

PONDICHERY, MADRAS, CALCUTTA AND ALL INDIAN PORTS.

ON WEDNESDAY, the 4th February, 1880, at Noon, the Company's S. S. IRAGUALLY, Commandant GADVAIN, with MAILS, PASSENGERS, SPECIE, and CARGO, will leave this Port for the above places.

Cargo and Specie will be registered for London as well as for Marseilles, and accepted in transit through Marseilles for the principal places of Europe.

Shipping Orders will be granted until Noon.

Cargo will be received on board until 4 p.m. Specie and Parcels until 3 p.m. on the 3rd February, 1880. (Parcels are not to be sent on board; they must be left at the Agency's Office.)

Contents and value of Packages are required.

For further particulars, apply at the Company's Office.

G. DE CHAMPEAUX, Agent.

Hongkong, January 22, 1880. fe4

Intimations.

NOTICE.

OFFICE OF THE SHANGHAI STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, IN LIQUIDATION.

Shanghai, January 3, 1880.

AN ELEVENTH RETURN OF CAPITAL at the Rate of TWO TACKS per SHARE, will be made to Shareholders of Record on 12th January, Payable at the Office of the Liquidators, on MONDAY, 19th January.

Warrants will then be delivered by the Undersigned to Shareholders, or their lawful representatives, on presentation of Share Certificates for Endorsement.

The Transfer BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 12th to the 19th January, inclusive.

By Order,

RUSSELL & Co., Liquidators.

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COSMOPOLITAN DOCKS.

W. B. SPRATT & Co. have lately added an Extensive MACHINE SHOP and other APPLIANCES to the former Advantages of these Docks.

The DIMENSIONS of the DOCK are:—460 Feet, on the Blocks; 92 Feet Wide; Ordinary Tides, 21 Ft.; Spring Tides, 24 Ft.

Office, 20, PRAYA CENTRAL, HONGKONG.

Hongkong, October 4, 1879. 40c80

SAILORS' HOME.

ANY Cast-off CLOTHING, BOOKS, or PAPERS will be thankfully received at the Sailor's Home, West Point.

Hongkong, July 25, 1878.

Insurances.

SCOTTISH IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

FIRE AND LIFE.

INSURANCES against FIRE granted at Current Rates. Considerable Reduction in Premium for LIFE Insurance in China.

MEYER & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, June 2, 1879. 2jn80

SWISS LLOYD

TRANSPORT INSURANCE COMPANY OF WINTERTHUR.

INSURANCES granted on MARINE RISKS to all parts of the World.

MEYER & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, June 3, 1879. 3jn80

YANGTSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

CAPITAL (Fully Paid-up).....Tls. 420,000

PERMANENT RESERVE.....Tls. 250,000

SPECIAL RESERVE FUND.....Tls. 206,370

TOTAL CAPITAL AND AC- CUMULATION, 25th April, 1879.....Tls. 856,370

Directors.

F. B. FORBES, Esq., Chairman.

M. W. BOYD, Esq. | Wm. MEYER, Esq.

O. LUCAS, Esq. | S. D. WEBB, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE—SHANGHAI.

Messrs RUSSELL & Co., Secretaries.

LONDON BRANCH.

Messrs BARING BROTHERS & Co., Bankers.

FULLARTON HENDERSON, Esq., Agent.

8, St. Michael's Alley, Cornhill, E.C.

POLICIES granted on Marine Risks to all parts of the World.

Subject to a charge of 12 % for Interest on Shareholders' Capital, all the PROFITS of the UNDERWRITING BUSINESS will be annually distributed among all Contributors of Business in proportion to the Premium paid by them.

RUSSELL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, October 1, 1879. 10c80

Insurances.

CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY, (LIMITED.)

NOTICE.

POLICIES granted at current rates on Marine Risks to all parts of the World. In accordance with the Company's Articles of Association, Two Thirds of the Profit, are distributed annually to Contributors whether Shareholders or not, in proportion to the net amount of Premium contributed by each, the remaining third being carried to Reserve Fund.

J. BRADLEE SMITH, Secretary.

Hongkong, December 9, 1878.

QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned are prepared to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$45,000 on Buildings, or on Goods stored therein, at current local rates, subject to a Discount of 20% on the Premium.

NORTON & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, January 1, 1874.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

AGENCIES at all the Treaty Ports of China and Japan, and at Singapore, Saigon and Penang.

Kinks accepted, and Policies of Insurance granted at the rates of Premium current at the above mentioned Ports.

NO CHARGE FOR POLICY FEES.

JAS. B. COUGHTRIE, Secretary.

Hongkong, November 1, 1871.

LANCASHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

(FIRE AND LIFE.)

CAPITAL—TWO MILLIONS STERLING.

THE Undersigned are prepared to grant Policies against the Risk of FIRE on Buildings or on Goods stored therein, on Goods on board Vessels and on Hulls of Vessels in Harbour, at the usual Terms and Conditions.

Proposals for Life Assurances will be received, and transmitted to the Directors for their decision.

If required, protection will be granted on first class Lives up to £1000 on a Single Life.

For Rates of Premiums, forms of proposals or any other information, apply to

ARNHOLD, KARBURG & Co., Agents, Hongkong & Canton.

Hongkong, January 4, 1867.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER

His Majesty King George The First, A. D. 1720.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Corporation are prepared to grant Insurances as follows:—

Marine Department.

Policies at current rates payable either here, in London or at the principal Ports of India, China and Australia.

Fire Department.

Policies issued for long or short periods at current rates. A discount of 20 % allowed.

Life Department.

Policies issued for sums not exceeding £5,000 at reduced rates.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.

Hongkong, July 25, 1872.

MANCHESTER FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF MANCHESTER AND LONDON.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

Capital of the Company £1,000,000 Sterling of which is paid up £ 100,000 "

Reserve Fund upwards of £ 120,000 "

Annual Income £ 250,000 "

THE Undersigned have been appointed Agents for the above Company at Hongkong, Canton, Foochow, Shanghai, and Hankow, and are prepared to grant Insurances at current rates.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.

Hongkong, October 15, 1868.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned, Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant Insurances at current rates.

MELOHERS & Co., Agents, Royal Insurance Company.

Hongkong, October 27, 1874.

NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Incorporated by Royal Charter and Special Acts of Parliament.

ESTABLISHED 1809.

CAPITAL £2,000,000.

THE Undersigned, AGENTS at Hongkong for the above Company, are prepared to grant Policies against FIRE, to the extent of £10,000 on any Building, or on Merchandise in the same, at the usual Rates, subject to a discount of 20 per cent.

GILMAN & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, July 6, 1875.

Merchant Vessels in Hongkong Harbour.

Exclusive of late Arrivals and Departures reported to-day.

To facilitate finding the position of any vessel in the Harbour, the Anchorage is divided into eight Sections, commencing at Green Island. Vessels near the Hongkong shore are marked A., near the Kowloon shore K., and those in the body of the Shipping or midway between each shore are marked C., in conjunction with the figures denoting the sections.

Section. 1. From Green Island to the Gas Works. 2. From Gas Works to the Novelty Iron Works. 3. From Novelty Iron Works to the Harbour Master's Office. 4. From Harbour Master's Office to the P. and O. Co.'s Office. 5. From P. and O. Co.'s Office to Peddar's Wharf. 6. From Peddar's Wharf to the Naval Yard. 7. From Naval Yard to the Pier. 8. From Pier to East Point.

Vessel's Name.	Anchor- age.	Captain.	Flag and Rig.	Tons.	Date of Arrival.	Consignees or Agents.	Destination.	Remarks.
Steamers								
Albay	5 h	F. Ashton	Brit. str.	366	Jan. 28	Douglas Laprak & Co.	Tamsui, &c.	at daylight
Bombay	2 h	Goggins	Brit. str.	740	Jan. 18	K'wok Achong	Saigon	K'loon Dock
Charlton	4 h	Johnson	Brit. str.	786	Jan. 29	Melchers & Co.	Y'hama & S. F. cisco 4th prox.	
Chelco	4 h	Williams	Brit. str.	684	Jan. 24	Butterfield & Swire	Hoihow & Haiphong	Saunders' Slip
City of Tokio	5 h	Mauzy	Amer. str.	5079	Jan. 25	P. M. S. S. Co.	Bangkok	To-morrow
Conquest	5 h	Falbot	Brit. str.	318	Jan. 17	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	Salmon	To-morrow
Consolation	2 h	Young	Brit. str.	764	Jan. 30	Yuen Fat Hong	Amoy	To-morrow
Esmeralda	5 h	Lamont	Brit. str.	395	Jan. 24	Russell & Co.	London, &c.	Tug Plying
Europe	5 h	Stopani	Brit. str.	528	Jan. 24	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	Hoihow & Haiphong	To-morrow
Fame	5 h	Graham	Brit. str.	117	Jan. 29	H. K. & W'pon Dock Co.	Amoy, &c.	
Gleniffer	5 h	Gibbon	Brit. str.	1411	Jan. 30	M. S. N. Co.	Swatow and Amoy	To-day
Hae-shin	4 h	Goode	Brit. str.	764	Jan. 27	Douglas Laprak & Co.	Hoihow	
Hailong	5 h	Clarke	Brit. str.	277	Jan. 29	Kwok Achong	Yokohama	Malls
Jeddah	2 h	Love	Brit. str.	993	Jan. 29	P. & O. S. N. Co.	Coast Ports	1st daylight
Kiangchow	2 h	Reeves	Brit. str.	159	Jan. 24	Douglas Laprak & Co.	K'loon Dock	
Malacca	5 h	Westoby	Brit. str.	1044	Jan. 27	Kwok Achong	Nagasaki	To-morrow
Namoa	5 h	Love	Brit. str.	862	Jan. 27	Douglas Laprak & Co.	Bangkok	
Norna	5 h	Nagel	Ger. str.	606	May 31	Kwok Achong		
Olympia	5 h	Parkes	Brit. str.	783	Jan. 22	Meyer & Co.		
Paladin	5 h	Haydon	Amer. str.	820	Dec. 26	Jardine, Matheson & Co.		
Rajasthananhar	5 h	Peters	Brit. str.	820	Dec. 26	Jardine, Matheson & Co.		
Sea Gull	8 h	Haydon	Amer. str.	48	Mar. 24	China Traders' Insurance Co.		
Thales	...	Peters	Brit. str.	820	Dec. 26	Jardine, Matheson & Co.		
Sailing Vessels								
Alden Bessie	4 h	Noyes	Amer. bqe.	842	Dec. 16	Rozario & Co.	Portland	
Alice Reed	5 h	Killoran	Amer. bqe.	873	Dec. 6	Vogel & Co.	New York	
Bonito	4 h	Wesenberg	Ger. bqe.	624	Dec. 12	Arnhold, Karberg & Co.	Havre	
Brunette	7 h	Dow	Brit. bqe.	375	Jan. 20	Geo. R. Stevens & Co.	Manila	
Bua Cazo	2 h	Lange	Slam. bqe.	388	Jan. 20	Chinese		For Sale
Carl	4 h	Thomson	Ger. bg.	225	Dec. 20	Arnhold, Karberg & Co.		
Charlde	5 h	Gautier	Fch. bqe.	255	Jan. 24	Carlowitz & Co.		
Chelmsford	4 h	Collins	Brit. bktine.	381	Jan. 28	Edward Schellhass & Co.	London	Cleared
Claro Babuyan	4 h	Polson	Brit. bqe.	368	Nov. 29	Vogel & Co.		
Colon	2 h	Noyes	Amer. bqe.	852	Jan. 20	Rozario & Co.		
Duke of Abercorn	3 h	Binnie	Brit. sh.	1049	Jan. 20	Adamson, Bell & Co.	London	
Emma	3 h	Michelgling	Ger. 3m. sh.	233	Jan. 20	Captain		
Empire	7 h	Leckie	Amer. sh.	1131	Dec. 5	Arnhold, Karberg & Co.		
Fantaisie	1 h	Cooper	Brit. bqe.	693	Jan. 28	Arnhold, Karberg & Co.	London	
Floral Star	4 h	Davidson	Brit. 3m. sh.	244	Jan. 21	Adamson, Bell & Co.		
Garibaldi	8 h	Forbes	Amer. bqe.	670	Dec. 24	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	Touron	To-day
Glandinorwig	...	Jones	Brit. bqe.	1081	Jan. 16	Melchers & Co.	Wanchai Pier	
Golfah	2 h	Dentzau	Slam. bqe.	642	Nov. 26	Wo Tye Hong		
Harmonie	5 h	Schiphors	Ger. sch.	241	Nov. 26	Vogel & Co.	Hamburg	
Hayden Brown	7 h	Havener	Amer. bqe.	865	Dec. 11	Melchers & Co.		
Hazel Holme	3 h	Millican	Brit. bqe.	405	Jan. 22	Vogel & Co.	Taiwanfoo	put back
Heda	5 h	Day	Amer. sh.	1529	Jan. 19	Order		
Herman	2 h	Counzner	Swed. bqe.	289	Dec. 26	Edward Schellhass & Co.	Honolulu	
Highlander	4 h	Hutchinson	Amer. sh.	1352	June 19	Vogel & Co.		
John Nicholson	7 h	Campbell	Brit. sh.	685	Dec. 9	Vogel & Co.	London	
Lady Aberdour	3 h	Hutchinson	Brit. bg.	287	Jan. 13	Chinese		
Mabel	8 h	Hallett	Amer. bqe.	782	Jan. 15	Captain		
Middlesex	7 h	Walsh	Brit. sh.	1191	Dec. 12	Russell & Co.	San Francisco	
Montaria	4 h	Schneider	Ger. sch.	98	Jan. 17	Slamson & Co.		
Morning Star	2 h	Michaelson	Slam. bqe.	570	Dec. 27	Chinese		
Moses B. Tower	8 h	Hall	Amer. bktine.	637	Nov. 29	Simsman & Co.	New York	
Parnass	7 h	Lutyons	Ger. bqe.	629	Jan. 23	Simsman & Co.		
Paul Marie	5 h	Galland	Fch. bqe.	329	Jan. 22	Carlowitz & Co.		
Prince Frederick	4 h	Claigue	Brit. sh.	1490	Dec. 29	Vogel & Co.	London	
Spartan	8 h	Vincent	Amer. sch.	81	Aug. 27	W. H. Ray		
Sumatra	3 h	Clough	Amer. sh.	1090	Sept. 5	Russell & Co.		
Tartar	4 h	Kaemena	Ger. bg.	258	Jan. 17	Melchers & Co.		
Villa de Rivadavia	3 h	Camus	Span. bg.	274	Jan. 15	Brandao & Co.	Manila	To-morrow
W. A. Holcomb	7 h	Dunton	Amer. bqe.	953	Jan. 23	Jardine, Matheson & Co.		